DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

~~NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION~~
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Classification/Control Markings

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC

3. TITLE: (U) Military Intelligence Summary (Up-dating)

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

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14. SOURCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT~~

DIRC YES [X] NO [X]

16. SUMMARY: (U) This report forwards changes to the Argentine Military Intelligence Summary.

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20. ENCLOSURES:
MICROFICHED BY RDS-3D2

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21. This IR contains 10 pages.

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1 SEPT 62 EDITION MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77

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22. DETAILS:

CHANGES TO MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - ARGENTINA

1. GOVERNMENT

a. (U) Key Government Officials - Change the following to read:

President: Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla (Army, Retired)
Army: Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola

b. Type and Stability of Government - Change sub-paragraph 1 to read:

(U) Constitutionally Argentina is a federal republic with a popularly elected executive and legislature. However, from 24 March 1976 to 1 August 1978, the country was governed by a military junta which dismissed the President, Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, and replaced her with one of the junta members, Army Commander Jorge Rafael Videla. The Junta closed the federal and provincial legislatures, replaced the members of the Supreme Court, and appointed military governors for all provinces. A state of siege, declared by the previous regime, continues. All activities by political parties and labor unions have been suspended, and the news media have been directed to exercise a measure of self-censorship. On 1 August 1978, General Videla retired from the Army but retained his position as President. General Viola replaced Videla as Army Commander-in-Chief and Army member of the Junta.

b. Type and Stability of Government - Change sub-paragraph 2, line 6, to read:

attacking security personnel. Armed terrorists which attack the security forces are tried...

b. Type and Stability of Government - Change sub-paragraph 3, to read:

~~(C)~~ The Government has a highly respected team of economic experts which has been more successful than expected in obtaining sorely needed foreign credits. However, the economic program being followed has kept wages low while prices for food, housing, transportation, and other essentials have continued to rise. Businessmen and farmers have been permitted to make exorbitant profits while urban laborers are finding it difficult to feed their families.

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c. Internal Threat - Change sub-paragraph 2, to read:

~~(S)~~ Urban terrorism has been a serious problem since April 1969. Right- and left-wing terrorism continued largely unabated during the Peron years (1973-1976) but has been controlled by the present Junta. Of the several leftist terrorist groups, the ERP and the Montoneros have proven to be the most dangerous. The Argentine Anti-Communist (or Anti-Imperialist) Alliance (AAA), a right-wing group, supposedly disappeared when former Welfare Minister Lopez Rega was ousted. Some right-wing groups, which apparently include some security forces, are still active but are not referred to as AAA.

h. (U) Key U.S. Officials (all in Buenos Aires) - Change to read:

(b)(3):10 USC 424

Senior Naval Advisor and Chief, Navy Section, US Mil Group: Capt (b)(6)

Chief of Air Mission, and Chief, Air Section, US Mil Group: Col

2. MILITARY, GENERAL

a. (U) Key Military Officials - Change to read:

Army: Commander in Chief, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola

b. Position of the Armed Forces - Change sub-paragraph 3, to read:

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Traditionally, the Armed Forces have exerted a strong influence in politics. Military leaders are solidly anti-Communist and many were strongly opposed to the Peron Administration. The Armed Forces did make a conscious effort to remain aloof from politics during the Peron Government, but the lack of positive leadership finally caused the military as a whole to conclude that a change in government was necessary. Consequently, there has been general Armed Forces unity in support of the military government. Armed Forces leaders are nationalistic, but basically friendly toward the United States. However, implementation of the US governments Human Rights policies has caused many military officers to re-evaluate their relationships with US counterparts. Although resented by certain middle class elements, groups within the universities, and organized labor, the military remains generally respected.

d. Military Budget - Change line 5 (the last line) to read:

at the exchange rate of 803.00 pesos equal US $1.00.

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3. MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY FORCES

a. ARMY

(2) Capabilities - Change sub-paragraph 2, to read:

~~(S)~~ Modern arms and equipment are in short supply, and training at regimental and higher levels is inadequate but improving. A number of Brigade-size field exercises have been conducted in recent months. The anti-guerrilla campaign in Tucuman provided a wealth of practical experience and Army troops who participated in those operations acquitted themselves well.

(5) Weapons and Equipment

(a) General - Change lines 35 thru 37, to read:

gun and a hull based on the German Marder MICV. Two prototypes have been unveiled since 9 July 1977 along with two APC (VCTP) and a towed 155-mm howitzer. The first Argentine production model of the...

(b) ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Ground Weapons and Equipment - Under Artillery, change:

Artillery (cont):	ADA, 40-mm (14 US, 1939; 36 Swed, 1938)	44

Under Armor, change:

Armor:	Tank, medium (TAM), Prototype (Arg-W. Ger)	2
	APC (VCTP), Prototype (Arg-W. Ger)	2

(c) ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Aircraft - Change to read:

Total: 72 (fixed wing: 2 jet, 13 turboprop, 21 prop;
Helicopters: 28 turbine, 8 piston)

In operational units: 72
(2 jet: 1 trainer VIP transport, 1 photo recon;
13 turboprop: 10 utility, 3 transport;
21 prop: all utility;
36 helicopters: all utility)

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b. NAVY

(4) Ship and Aircraft Strength

(a) ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Ships 1/- Change to read:

Type	Operational
Destroyers (DD)	7

(b) ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Aircraft - Change to read:

Total: 109 (fixed wing: 20 jet,
18 turboprop, 61 prop;
helicopters: 10 turbine)

In operational units: 109
(20 jet: 11 attack, 8 trainer, 1 transport;
18 turboprop: 11 transport, 5 utility, 2 A200;
61 prop: 16 ASW, 16 transport, 21 trainer, 8 utility;
10 heli: 4 ASW, 6 utility)

(5) Organization and Deployment

(a) General Service - Add to the end of sub-paragraph 2:

Thirteen new naval regions were established during early 1978 to coordinate recruiting, civic action, and Navy presence in the political life of the country (see IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

(6) Status of Equipment - Change sub-paragraph 3, to read:

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The Navy's two "Type 209" submarines were purchased prefabricated from West Germany and assembled in Argentina; sections for the Salta and the San Luis were delivered in June and in November 1972, respectively. Reports from West Germany indicate that Argentina is negotiating for four 2000-ton TR-1700 submarines. The Navy's two West German Lurssens TNC-45 fast patrol boats were delivered in December 1974, and became operational in November 1975. The Navy has plans to build four more West German designed patrol boats in Argentina. In June 1974, the Navy issued a call for bids on the construction of six frigates. The

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winning bid was for the 2,500-ton British Vosper Thornycroft Type 21 Amazon Class. Construction was not begun due to price and perhaps dissatisfaction with the Type 42 (Hercules) purchase. There are recent reports that Argentina will acquire up to eight West German designed Type 122 Frigates with all but the first to be constructed in Argentina. A new transport, the Beagle Channel, was delivered in April 1978; the 120-meter long, 15 knot ship is the first of three to enter service. Two additional units are under construction. To replace the icebreaker San Martin, a new unit was ordered from Finland with delivery anticipated for November 1978.

(6) Status of Equipment - Change sub-paragraph 7, last sentence, to read:

The Navy now possesses eight T-34Cs.

(6) Status of Equipment - Change sub-paragraph 8, line 10, to read:

considered selling. It is buying Beechcraft T-34Cs...

(9) Training - Change sub-paragraph 3, to read:

~~(C)~~ Navy Academy cadets, together with a US Navy exchange officer, receive practical instruction on the Navy's sail training frigate Libertad. The most recent cruise commenced in June 1978. After completing visits in Europe, it will return to Buenos Aires in December 1978.

3. MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY FORCES

c. AIR FORCE

(4) ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Aircraft Strength - Change to read:

Total: 332 (fixed wing: 140 jet,
59 turboprop,
100 prop;
helicopters: 27
turbine)

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In operational units: 322
(136 jets: 11 bmbr, 15 day ftr,
58 ftr/bmbr, 11 inteps,
8 trnsp, 37 tnr;
59 turboprop: 15 attack; 38 trnsp,
6 utility;
99 prop: 41 light trnsp, 50 tnr,
8 utility;
34 helicopters: all utility)

(6) Status of Equipment - Change sub-paragraph 1 to read:

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The aircraft are of US, French, Canadian, Dutch, and Argentine manufacture. The Air Force is seeking to modernize its equipment as the national economy will permit. The primary combat aircraft are 59 A-4B and A-4C Skyhawks purchased from the US, 11 reconditioned Canberra bombers purchased from the UK in 1970, and 11 Mirage interceptors (including 2 Mirage III-B trainers) purchased from France in 1972. The Air Force purchased 25 used A-4C aircraft from the US for delivery in late 1974. They were refurbished at the Rio Cuarto depot and are now assigned to the IV Air Brigade at Mendoza. Status of the F-86 fleet is uncertain. The Air Force had attempted to transfer these aircraft to the Uruguayan Air Force, but the US government denied permission for the transfer. The aircraft have been put in a ready-reserve, semi-dormant status and reportedly are flying occasionally to exercise systems, flight, and ground crews. The ongoing Beagle Channel dispute between Argentina and Chile may have influenced the decision to continue limited operations of the F-86s although, originally, funds were not budgeted for FY 1978. The Air Force has purchased an AN/CPN-4 GCA radar system from the US which has been installed at the Dr. Mariano Moreno Air Base (VIII Air Brigade) to control the Mirages. Two additional systems, one fixed and one mobile, are being sought. The high cost of Mirage overhaul ($1 million each) plus long delivery time for spare parts has created considerable dissatisfaction within the Air Force, but despite these problems, they have purchased seven additional Mirage IIIs.

(6) Status of Equipment - Change sub-paragraph 2, to read:

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ In late 1974, the Air Force purchased six French Aerospatiale Lama helicopters for search and rescue duty in the mountains. Two Sikorsky S-58s were purchased and delivered in the first quarter of 1975. Funds have been authorized for the purchase of two VIP-configured helicopters for presidential support, and six utility helicopters for general support missions. The US government approved the purchase of eight utility configured BELL 212s, under conditions acceptable to the

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Argentine government. Delivery is complete, however, one of the aircraft crashed and was lost in June 1978. Series production of the IA-58 PUCARA COIN aircraft began at the Cordoba military aviation factory (Cordoba Material Area) in 1974. Initial production was slow and uneven, with only three prototypes and 11 production models completed by late August 1977. In December 1977, there were reports that the production rate had been increased from one/month to one/ten days, but a visit to the facility in late May 1978, demonstrated that the production rate continues at one/month. The Air Force has completed its first squadron of 15 aircraft. Production number 19 was seen on 1 June 1978 being prepared for test flight. In addition to the thirty for its own use, the Air Force has made a firm order for 30 more PUCARAs which are to be exported. Two PUCARAs were exhibited in the 1977 Paris International Aviation Exposition. There are confirmed reports of a sale to Mauritania, and two aircraft were observed on 1 June 1978 being prepared for delivery to Mauritania. Unconfirmed reports indicate interest of PUCARA purchases from Bolivia, Peru, and South Africa. The Air Force still intends to expand its production capability at Cordoba, utilizing the profits from international sales to finance the modernization and enlargement.

(9) Training - Change sub-paragraph 3, to read:

~~(C)~~ Continuation and proficiency training for pilots has become a problem for the Air Force. Financial constraints have limited flying hours for training. Most senior officers in staff positions have been removed from flying with active units. An increase in the aircraft accident rate over the past two years indicates to the Air Force that the limited proficiency training available to unit and staff pilots is not sufficient and may force them to channel more training resources towards unit-assigned pilots only.

(9) Training - Change sub-paragraph 4, to read:

~~(C)~~ Training of Argentine Air Force personnel in both the Canal Zone and the US has decreased somewhat in the last year. The reduction is due primarily to monetary restraints. There have been no funds released for FY 1978 and there will be no CONUS or Canal Zone training for the Air Force in FY 1979.

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(10) Reserves and Mobilization

(a) Reserves - Delete the last sentence of this paragraph, "There are no Air Force aircraft known to be in a reserve status.", and replace with the following:

Reportedly, the Air Force is studying the feasibility of establishing a pilots ready-reserve program to provide the capability for a sustained higher sortie rate in the event of a national emergency. The F-86s assigned to the IV Air Brigade are the only aircraft that can be considered in a reserve status.

(b) Mobilization - Change to read:

~~(C)~~ M-Day, 17,000; M+15, 24,000. Mobilized personnel would most likely come from recently released personnel and would be used to augment existing units. Additionally, domestic civilian personnel and equipment are most likely included in Air Force mobilization plans. The Air Force apparently perceives a need for a mobilization capability of its non-transport aircraft and is studying the feasibility of establishing a ready-reserve force.

d. PARAMILITARY FORCES

(3) National Aeronautical Police Force

(b) Capabilities - Change to read:

(C/NOFORN) With 1000 personnel presently on duty, the force is controlling Ezeiza International and Aeroparque Jorge Newberry Airports, which serve the city of Buenos Aires. In June 1978, they began controlling Don Torquato, Cordoba, Mar del Plata, Mendoza, San Carlos de Bariloche, Iguazu, and Rosario airports as well.

(c) Strength - Change the figure "300" at the beginning of line 2, to read: "1000"

(d) Organization - Change to read:

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ A national directorate has been established under the Air Force Commander-in-Chief. The director for the initial phase of operations is the Commander of Ezeiza International Airport, but once the force is fully operational, it will be managed by a director who will be a senior Air Force officer on active duty, appointed by the President.

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e. ~~(S/NOFORN)~~ TOTAL MILITARY PERSONNEL STRENGTH - Change "National Aeronautical Police Force" figure from "300" to read: "1000", and change the "Total" figure from "159,200" to read: "159,900"

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